

**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2007**

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren convened at the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Lake George, New York, at 10:00 a.m.

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF  
SUPERVISORS OF WARREN COUNTY:**

You are hereby notified that, I, WILLIAM H. THOMAS, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Warren, pursuant to the power vested in me by Rule A.3 of the Rules of the Board of Supervisors, hereby call and convene a special meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Warren County to be held in the Supervisors' Room in the Warren County Municipal Center, Town of Queensbury, New York, on Friday, September 7, 2007 at 10:00 a.m., for the purpose of considering, and if determined by the Board to be appropriate, voting on, or otherwise taking action on, the following matters:

1. Discussion regarding the proposed increase in sales tax for Warren County;
2. Public Hearing regarding the proposed Airport Real Property Lease Agreement with Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC; and
3. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the Board of Supervisors.

The Clerk of the Board of Supervisors is hereby directed to call for the meeting and give written notice to all members of the Board of Supervisors of such meeting.

Dated: August 17, 2007

WILLIAM H. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN  
Warren County Board of Supervisors

Mr. William Thomas presiding.

Salute to the flag was led by Supervisor Merlino.

Roll called, the following members present:

Supervisors Gabriels, Monroe, Girard, Sheehan, Mason, O'Connor, Kenny, Belden, Bentley, W. Thomas, Tessier, Merlino, Stec, Caimano, Champagne, VanNess, Sokol, F. Thomas, Haskell, and Geraghty - 20.

Chairman Thomas declared the Public Hearing, regarding the proposed Airport Real Property Lease Agreement with Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC, open at 10:01 a.m. and requested the Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

Clerk read the Notice of Public Hearing.

There being no one wishing to speak on the proposed Airport Real Property Lease Agreement with Schermerhorn Aviation, LLC, Chairman Thomas closed the Public Hearing

at 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Thomas extended privilege of the floor to Supervisor Monroe. Mr Monroe presented a power point presentation regarding proposed changes in sales tax for Warren County, a copy of which is on file with the minutes. Mr. Monroe reminded the Board members that several years ago there was a Revenue Enhancement Committee that was formed to look at a number of possibilities for revenue enhancement, including the occupancy tax and sales tax. He noted that early on the Committee had focused on the occupancy tax and the result of those meetings was the occupancy tax being instituted. He added that recently the consensus of the Board was to take a fresh look at the possibility of a sales tax increase, and specifically whether that increase could ease the burden of property tax on residents of the County. He added after many discussions with the Board members, there did not appear to be support to increase the sales tax at this time; however, he said, he felt it was important to present the findings of the Ad Hoc Sales Tax Committee meetings. Mr. Monroe reviewed the power point presentation in detail. He concluded that there could be a benefit of an increase in sales tax if it was all dedicated to property tax reduction. He reiterated that there was not support for a sales tax increase at this time.

Chairman Thomas extended privilege of the floor for public comment.

Mario Hepp, resident of the City of Glens Falls, expressed his pleasure in the Board members' decision not to pursue an increase in sales tax. He referred to the Warren County website, and noted he found the site very useful. He added that in reviewing the site he found the County Budget which included the salaries for all County employees, which was over one hundred and fifty three pages. He said he understood that Warren County was a large County; however, he stated, he thought the number of County employees was outrageous. He thanked the Board members for their time.

Bob Orlando, General Manager of the Aviation Mall, apprised that the merchants and businesses located in the Aviation Mall were not supportive of a sales tax increase. He further stated that the Aviation Mall already lost some of its market share to the Wilton retail business district and an increase in sales tax in Warren County would only exasperate that. He said as Aviation Mall tried to lure national retailers to the Mall, the retailers looked at different factors, one being the performance of existing stores in the market. Therefore, he noted, if the sales tax were raised and sales were lost for the current merchants, that would deter other merchants from locating in the County.

Larry Bennett, resident of the Town of Lake Luzerne, stated at one time he thought there would be merit in a sales tax increase in order to reduce property taxes; however, he said, he no longer thought that an increase in sales tax would be good for Warren County.

George Weinshenk, resident of the Town of Lake George, commented that non-resident taxpayers did pay school tax and County tax, yet they had no voice in the government and he stated that he did not feel those people should be singled out. He added that he agreed with Mr. Orlando in that an increase in sales tax would force people to

Saratoga and Wilton to do their shopping.

Chairman recognized Ronald Heacock, President of the Adirondack Community College (ACC), and welcomed him to the meeting.

Chairman Thomas announced that all the Supervisors had received information on the 2007 STAR rebate and noted that the application deadline for the rebate was November 30, 2007. He requested the Supervisors to relay the information to the constituents of their Towns.

Chairman Thomas acknowledged there was a piece of County-owned property across the street from the Municipal Center that had been approved to be advertised for sale by Resolution No. 464 of 2007. He advised that with regard to recent discussions about Exit 20 off the Adirondack Northway and the traffic congestion in that area, he suggested that the County retain ownership of that property until decisions were made on how to resolve the traffic problems; thereby requesting that Resolution No. 464 of 2007 be repealed.

Motion was made by Mr. Caimano, seconded by Mr. Stec and carried unanimously to waive the rules of the Board requiring a proposed resolution be in writing. Clerk noted it would be Resolution No. 566 for the record.

Motion was made by Mr. Stec, seconded by Mr. Tessier and carried unanimously to repeal Resolution No. 464 of 2007, Authorizing the County Treasurer to Advertise for the Sale of Warren County Property Located in the Town of Queensbury Known as Tax Map Parcel No. 288.-1-62. Clerk noted it would be Resolution No. 567 for the record.

Joan Sady, Clerk of the Board, said a motion was needed to bring Resolution Nos. 560 through 565 to the floor. Motion was made by Mr. Belden, seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously to bring Resolution Nos. 560 through 565 to the floor.

Chairman called for reading of resolutions and discussion.

Chairman Thomas called for a vote on the resolutions.

Resolution Nos. 560 through 567 were approved.

Chairman Thomas announced the next Board of Supervisors meeting would be on Friday, September 21, 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Weinshenk requested privilege of the floor. He advised there was a problem with solar panels that everyone should be aware of, in that they present a potential hazard to firemen, policemen and other rescue workers. He said solar panels generated power as long as the sun was out and therefore could electrocute someone, even if the power had been shut off. He added the same was true with automatic generators which many homes now had. Mr. Weinshenk stated a possible solution would be some sort of notification that a home had

alternate power available. He noted that with regard to solar panels, the national code was in the process of being re-written. Mr. VanNess said he would contact Marv Lemery, Director of the Office of Emergency Services, to discuss the matter further, and he would address it at the next Fire Prevention and Control Committee meeting as well.

Mr. Stec announced there had been a significant fire in the Town of Queensbury last week which required a lot of people, time and water to get it under control and extinguished. He added that a total of twenty-one fire companies from three counties, Warren, Washington and Saratoga Counties, were on the scene fighting the fire. He said a tremendous amount of assistance was lent to the Queensbury Fire Companies and he thanked all those companies and towns that were involved. He also noted that the part-time Fire Coordinator for Warren County, Mr. Lemery, was on the scene the entire time and he commended him for his efforts.

There being no further business, on motion by Mr. Belden and seconded by Mr. Bentley, Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.